GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2532
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
RECRUITMENT OF VSNL EMPLOYEES
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has recruited new employees recently with no representation to SC/ST employees who are on the verge of retrenchment;

(b) if so, whether the VSNL had given in assurance to the Union Government at the time of disinvestment to protect the SC/ST employees on roll at that time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether VSNL has now reneged on its assurance to the Government on this issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.The employment of new employees is done as per the needs of the business and the same is purely on merits and qualifications after a thorough and objective selection process.

(b) & (c) There is no undertaking given by VSNL to the Government at the time of disinvestment to protect SC/ST employees on roll at that time. However, at the time of disinvestment, an assurance was given in writing by Panatone the Strategic Partner, that no employee in VSNL would be retrenched for a period of 2 years instead of 1 year as provided in the Shareholders Agreement, and that the present salary, wages and perquisites would not be altered and no adverse change would be made in the retirement benefits which the employees on the rolls of VSNL were eligible. These assurances have been fulfilled and complied with.

(d) & (e) Do not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.